

TITLE XI
*INHERITANCE, ESTATE,
GENERATION SKIPPING,
AND FIDUCIARY INCOME TAX*

CHAPTER 86
INHERITANCE TAX

[Prior to 12/17/86, Revenue Department[730]]

701—86.1(450) Administration.

86.1(1) Definitions. The following definitions cover Chapter 86.

“*Administrator*” means the administrator of the compliance division of the department of revenue and finance.

“*Child*” means a biological or adopted issue entitled to inherit pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 633.

“*Compliance division*” is the administrative unit of the department created by the director to administer the inheritance, estate, generation skipping transfer, and fiduciary income tax laws of the state.

“*Department*” means the department of revenue and finance.

“*Devise*,” when used as a verb, means to dispose of property, both real and personal, by a will.

“*Director*” means the director of revenue and finance.

“*Estate*” means the real and personal property, tangible and intangible, of the decedent or a trust, that over time may change in form due to sale, reinvestment, or otherwise, and augmented by accretions or additions thereto and substitutions therefor, or diminished by any decreases and distributions therefrom. For the definitions of “gross estate” and “net estate” under this chapter, see those terms as referenced in this subrule.

“*Executor*” means any person appointed by the court to administer the estate of a testate decedent.

“*Fiduciary*” includes personal representative, executor, administrator, and trustee. This term includes both temporary and permanent fiduciaries appointed by the court to settle the decedent’s probate estate and also the trustee of an inter vivos trust where the trust assets are part of the gross estate for inheritance tax purposes.

“*Gross estate*” as used for inheritance tax purposes as defined in Iowa Code section 450.2 includes all those items, or interests in property, passing by any method of transfer specified in Iowa Code section 450.3 without reduction for liabilities specified in Iowa Code section 450.12. The gross estate for tax purposes may not be the same as the estate for probate purposes. For example, property owned as joint tenants with right of survivorship, property transferred with a retained life use, gifts in excess of the annual gift tax exclusion set forth in Internal Revenue Code Section 2503(b) and within three years of death, transfers to take effect in possession or enjoyment at death, trust property, “pay on death” accounts, annuities, and certain retirement plans, are not part of the decedent’s probate estate, but are includable in the decedent’s gross estate for inheritance tax purposes. *In re Louden’s Estate*, 249 Iowa 1393, 92 N.W.2d 409 (1958); *In re Sayres’ Estate*, 245 Iowa 132, 60 N.W.2d 120 (1953); *In re Toy’s Estate*, 220 Iowa 825, 263 N.W. 501 (1935); *In re Mann’s Estate*, 219 Iowa 597, 258 N.W. 904 (1935); *Matter of Bliven’s Estate*, 236 N.W.2d 366 (Iowa 1975); *In re English’s Estate*, 206 N.W.2d 305 (Iowa 1973).

“*Gross share*” means the total amount of property of an heir, beneficiary, surviving joint tenant, or transferee, without reduction of those items properly deductible in computing the net shares. The total of all gross shares is equal to the gross estate.

“*Heir*” includes any person, except the surviving spouse, who is entitled to property of the decedent under the statutes of intestate succession.

“*Internal Revenue Code*” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as defined in Iowa Code section 422.3(4), and is to include the revisions to the Internal Revenue Code made in 1986 and all subsequent revisions.

“*Intestate estate*” means an estate in which the decedent did not have a will. Administration of such estates is governed by Iowa Code sections 633.227 through 633.230. Rules of inheritance for such estates are found in Iowa Code sections 633.211 through 633.226.

“*Issue*,” for the purpose of intestate succession, means all lawful lineal descendants of a person, whether biological or adopted. For details regarding intestate succession, see Iowa Code sections 633.210 through 633.226. For details regarding partial intestate succession, see Iowa Code section 633.272.

“*Net estate*” means the gross estate less those items specified in Iowa Code section 450.12 as deductions in determining the net shares of property of each heir, beneficiary, surviving joint tenant, or transferee. *In re Estate of Waddington*, 201 N.W.2d 77 (Iowa 1972). The total of all net shares of an estate must equal the total of the net estate.

“*Net share*” means the gross share less the liabilities, if any, which are properly deductible from the gross share of an heir, beneficiary, surviving joint tenant, or transferee. The law of abatement of shares may be applicable for purposes of determining the net share subject to tax. See Iowa Code section 633.436; *In re Estate of Noe*, 195 N.W.2d 361 (Iowa 1972); *Colthurst v. Colthurst*, 265 N.W.2d 590 (Iowa 1978); *In re Estate of Duhme*, 267 N.W.2d 688 (Iowa 1978). However, see Iowa Code section 633.278 for property subject to a mortgage.

“*Personal representative*” shall have the same meaning as the term is defined in Iowa Code section 633.3(29) and shall also include trustees. For information regarding claims of a personal representative, see Iowa Code section 633.431.

“*Probate*” means the administration of an estate in which the decedent either had or did not have a will. Jurisdiction over the administration of such estates, among other matters, is by the district court sitting in probate. For further details on the subject matter and personal jurisdiction of the district court sitting in probate, see Iowa Code sections 633.10 through 633.21. For matters regarding the procedure in probate, see Iowa Code sections 633.33 through 633.53.

“*Responsible party*” is the person liable for the payment of tax under this chapter. See 701—86.2(450).

“*Simultaneous deaths*” occur when the death of two or more persons occurs at the same time or there is not sufficient evidence that the persons have died otherwise than simultaneously. For distribution of property in this situation, see Iowa Code sections 633.523 through 633.528.

“*Surviving spouse*” means the legally recognized surviving wife or husband of the decedent.

“*Tax*” means the inheritance tax imposed by Iowa Code chapter 450.

“*Taxpayer*” means a person liable for the payment of the inheritance tax under Iowa Code section 450.5 and includes the executor or personal representative of an estate, the trustee or other fiduciary of property subject to inheritance tax, and includes each heir, beneficiary, surviving joint tenant, transferee, or other person becoming beneficially entitled to any property or interest therein by any method of transfer specified in Iowa Code section 450.3, as subject to inheritance tax with respect to any inheritance tax due on the respective shares of the property.

“Trustee” means the person or persons appointed as trustee by the instrument creating the trust or the person or persons appointed by the court to administer the trust.

“Trusts” means real or personal property that is legally held by a person or entity for the benefit of another. This includes, but may not be limited to, express trusts, trusts imposed by court order, trusts administered by the court, and testamentary trusts. Such trusts are subject to Iowa Code chapter 450, even in situations when the estate consists solely of trust property.

“Unknown heirs” means heirs to an estate in which the identities of the heirs or the place of residency of the heirs cannot be ascertained with reasonable certainty.

“Will” includes codicil; it also includes a testamentary instrument that merely appoints an executor, and a testamentary instrument that merely revokes or revives another will. For information regarding mutual and contractual wills, see Iowa Code section 633.270.

86.1(2) *Delegation of authority.* The director delegates to the administrator, subject always to the supervision and review by the director, the authority to administer the Iowa inheritance tax. This delegated authority specifically includes, but is not limited to, the determination of the correct inheritance tax liability; making assessments against the taxpayer for additional inheritance tax due; authorizing refunds of excessive inheritance tax paid; issuing receipts for inheritance tax paid; executing releases of the inheritance tax lien; granting extension of time to file the inheritance tax return and pay the tax due; granting deferments to pay the inheritance tax on a property interest to take effect in possession or enjoyment at a future date; requesting or waiving the appraisal of property subject to the inheritance tax and the imposition of penalties for failure to timely file or pay the inheritance tax. The administrator may delegate the examination and audit of inheritance tax returns to the supervisors, examiners, agents, and any other employees or representatives of the department.

86.1(3) *Information deemed confidential.* Federal tax returns, federal return information, inheritance tax returns, and the books, records, documents, and accounts of any person, firm, or corporation, including stock transfer books, requested to be submitted to the department for the enforcement of the inheritance tax law, shall be deemed and held confidential by the department, subject to public disclosure only as provided by law. See 26 U.S.C. Section 6103 pertaining to confidentiality and disclosure of federal tax returns and federal return information.

86.1(4) *Information not confidential.* Copies of wills, the filing of an inheritance tax lien, release of a real estate lien, probate inventories, trust instruments, deeds and other documents which have been filed for public record are not deemed confidential by the department.

86.1(5) *Forms.* The final inheritance tax return, inheritance tax receipts, and forms for the audit, assessment, and refund of the inheritance tax shall be in such form as may be prescribed or approved by the director—see 701—8.3(17A).

86.1(6) *Safe deposit boxes and joint accounts.* Effective July 1, 1998, there is no longer a requirement for safe deposit boxes to be inventoried and reported to the department prior to the delivery of the assets to the personal representative, transferee, joint owner, or beneficiary. However, all persons, banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations are required to notify the department of the balance in a joint account on the date of a deceased joint owner’s death and the name and address of the surviving joint owner prior to permitting the withdrawal of funds from the joint account by a surviving joint owner.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 22 and Iowa Code sections 421.2, 450.67, 450.68, 450.94, 450.97 and 450B.7.

701—86.2(450) Inheritance tax returns and payment of tax.

86.2(1) *Filing of an inheritance tax return.* Estates meeting certain requirements must file an inheritance tax return, and it is the duty of certain persons associated with the estate to file the inheritance tax return as follows:

a. Mandatory filing. The inheritance tax return provided for in subrule 86.2(2) must be filed if the gross share of any heir, beneficiary, transferee, or surviving joint tenant exceeds the exemptions allowable in Iowa Code sections 450.4 and 450.9. In addition, if Iowa real estate is includable in the gross estate, the return must be filed, even if no tax is due, prior to the issuance of a no tax due certificate.

Effective July 1, 2001, an estate is required to file an Iowa inheritance tax return if the entire estate of the decedent exceeds the sum of \$25,000 after deducting the liabilities of the estate.

b. Who must file. If the decedent's estate is probated as provided in Iowa Code chapter 633 or administered as provided in Iowa Code section 450.22, the personal representative of the estate is charged with the duty of filing the return with the department. If the personal representative of the estate fails to file the return or if the estate is not probated, it shall be the duty of those heirs, beneficiaries, transferees, surviving joint tenants, and trustees who receive shares in excess of the allowable exemptions or shares which are taxable in whole or in part, without the deduction of liabilities, and those individuals in receipt of the decedent's property are either jointly or severally to file the return with the department.

86.2(2) *Form and content—inheritance tax return.*

a. Estates of decedents dying prior to July 1, 1983. Rescinded IAB 10/13/93, effective 11/17/93.

b. Estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1983. For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1983, the preliminary inheritance tax return is abolished and a single inheritance tax return is substituted in lieu thereof. The return shall provide for schedules listing the assets includable in the gross estate, a listing of the liabilities deductible in computing the net estate, and a computation of the tax due, if any, on each share of the net estate. The return shall conform as nearly as possible to the federal estate tax return, Form 706. For information regarding Iowa returns, see subrule 86.1(5). If the estate has filed a federal estate tax return, a copy must be submitted with the Iowa return. If the federal estate return includes the schedules of assets and liabilities, the taxpayer may omit the Iowa schedules of assets from the return. However, any Iowa schedules indicating liabilities must be filed with the Iowa return due to proration of liabilities. When Iowa schedules are filed with the return, only those schedules which apply to the particular assets and liabilities of the estate are required. A return merely listing the assets and their values when the gross estate is in excess of \$10,000 is not sufficient in non-taxable estates. In this case, the return must be amended to list the schedule of liabilities and the computation of the shares of the net estate before an inheritance tax clearance will be issued.

c. Special rule when the surviving spouse succeeds to property in the estate. Effective for estates of decedents dying on or after January 1, 1988, the following rules apply when the surviving spouse succeeds to property in the estate:

(1) If all of the property includable in the gross estate for inheritance tax purposes is held in joint tenancy with right of survivorship by husband and wife alone, an inheritance tax return is not required to be filed and a certificate from the department stating no inheritance tax is due is not required to release the inheritance tax lien under Iowa Code section 450.7(2).

(2) If any of the property includable in the gross estate passes to the surviving spouse by means other than by joint tenancy with right of survivorship or if any property passes by joint tenancy with right of survivorship when the surviving spouse is not the only surviving joint tenant, an inheritance tax return is required to be filed.

d. Estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1999. In addition to the special rule for surviving spouses set forth in paragraph “c” of this subrule, effective for estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1999, an estate that consists solely of property includable in the gross estate that is held in joint tenancy with right of survivorship and that is exclusively owned by the decedent and a lineal ascendant of the decedent, lineal descendant of the decedent, a child legally adopted in compliance with the laws of this state by the decedent or a stepchild of the decedent, or any other person declared exempt from Iowa inheritance tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 450.9, or a combination solely consisting of such persons, is not required to file an Iowa inheritance tax return, unless such an estate has an obligation to file a federal estate tax return. Property of the estate passing by means other than by joint tenancy with right of survivorship or if any property passes by joint tenancy with right of survivorship when the title of property is held by persons other than a lineal ascendant, lineal descendant, a child legally adopted in compliance with the laws of this state, or a stepchild of the decedent or by any other person declared exempt from Iowa inheritance tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 450.9, an inheritance tax return is required to be filed.

The exemption granted to stepchildren is limited to that class of step relationships exclusively. The exemption is not extended to include any lineal ascendants or descendants of the step relationship, such as stepparent or stepgrandparent.

The rate of Iowa inheritance tax imposed on a share is based upon the relationship of the beneficiary to the decedent or the type of entity that is the beneficiary. A net estate that is less than \$10,000 does not have an Iowa inheritance tax obligation. For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 2001, the net estate that is less than \$25,000 does not have an Iowa inheritance tax obligation. The following is the most current Iowa inheritance tax rate schedule for net estates over \$25,000:

SCHEDULE B			
Brother, sister (including half-brother, half-sister), son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. There is no exemption.			
If the share is:			
Not over \$12,500, the tax is 5% of the share.			
If over	But not over	Tax is	Of excess over
\$ 12,500	\$ 25,000	\$ 625 + 6%	\$ 12,500
25,000	75,000	1,375 + 7%	25,000
75,000	100,000	4,875 + 8%	75,000
100,000	150,000	6,875 + 9%	100,000
150,000	and up	11,375 + 10%	150,000

SCHEDULE C			
Uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, foster child, cousin, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepgrandchild, and all other individual persons. There is no exemption.			
If the share is:			
Not over \$50,000, tax is 10% of the share.			
If over	But not over	Tax is	Of excess over
\$ 50,000	\$100,000	\$ 5,000 + 12%	\$ 50,000
100,000	and up	11,000 + 15%	100,000
SCHEDULE D			
A firm, corporation or society organized for profit, including an organization failing to qualify as a charitable, educational or religious organization:			
Effective July 1, 2001, any fraternal and social organization which does not qualify for exemption under IRC Section 170(c) and 2055:			
15% of the amount.			
SCHEDULE E			
Any society, institution or association incorporated or organized under the laws of any other state, territory, province or country than this state, for charitable, educational or religious purposes, or to a cemetery association, including a humane society not organized under the laws of this state, or to a resident trustee for use without this state, the rate of tax imposed in excess of \$500:			
10% of the amount.			
SCHEDULE F			
An unknown heir, as distinguished from an heir who is not presently ascertainable, due to contingent events:			
5% of the amount.			
SCHEDULE G			
A public library or public art gallery within this state, open to the use of the public and not operated for gain, or to a hospital within this state, or a trustee for such use within this state, or to a municipal corporation for purely public purposes:			
Entirely exempt: No tax.			
(Also included in this class are bequests for the care and maintenance of the cemetery or burial lot of a decedent or the decedent's family.)			

86.2(3) *Liability for the tax.* The personal representative of an estate is personally liable for the total tax due from any person receiving property subject to the tax, to the extent the person's share of the property is subject to the jurisdiction of the probate court and the personal representative. The trustee of trust property subject to tax is personally liable for the total tax due from a beneficiary to the extent of the person's share of the trust property. Each heir, beneficiary, transferee, joint tenant, and any other person being beneficially entitled to any property subject to tax is personally liable for the tax due on all property received subject to the tax. The person is not liable for the tax due on another person's share of property subject to tax, unless the person is also a personal representative, trustee, or other fiduciary liable for the tax by reason of having jurisdiction over the property, the succession to which is taxable. *Eddy v. Short*, 190 Iowa 1376, 179 N.W. 818 (1920); *Waterman v. Burbank*, 196 Iowa 793, 195 N.W. 191 (1923).

86.2(4) *Supplemental return—deferred interest.* When the tax has been deferred on a property interest to take effect in possession or enjoyment after the termination of a prior property interest, it shall be the duty of the owner of the future interest to file a supplemental inheritance tax return with the department, reporting the future interest for taxation.

86.2(5) *Amended return.* If additional assets or errors in valuation of assets or deductible liabilities are discovered after the filing of the inheritance tax return increasing the amount of tax due, an amended inheritance tax return must be filed with the department, reporting the additional assets. The appropriate penalty and interest will be charged on the additional tax due pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.27 and department rules in 701—Chapter 10. To file an amended inheritance tax return, Form IA 706 shall be completed and at the top of the front page of the return the word "AMENDED" shall be printed. If additional liabilities are discovered or incurred after the filing of the inheritance tax return which result in an overpayment of tax, an amended inheritance tax return must be filed in the manner indicated above. For amended returns resulting from federal audit adjustments—see subrule 86.3(6) and rules 86.9(450), and 86.12(450). For permitted and amended returns not permitted for change of values—see subrule 86.9(4).

86.2(6) *Due date for filing—return on present property interests.* Unless an extension of time has been granted, the final inheritance tax return, or the inheritance tax return in case of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1983, must be filed and any tax due paid, for all property in present possession or enjoyment:

a. On or before the last day of the ninth month after death for estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1984, subject to the due date falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, which would then make the return due on the following business day. The following table for return due dates illustrates this subrule:

Deaths Occurring During:	Return Due Date:
July 1996	April 30, 1997
August 1996	June 2, 1997 (May 31 is a Saturday and June 1 is a Sunday)
September 1996	June 30, 1997
October 1996	July 31, 1997
November 1996	September 2, 1997 (August 31 is a Sunday, September 1 is Labor Day)
December 1996	September 30, 1997
January 1997	October 31, 1997
February 1997	December 1, 1997 (November 30 is a Sunday)
March 1997	December 31, 1997
April 1997	February 2, 1998 (January 31 is a Saturday and February 1 is a Sunday)
May 1997	March 2, 1998 (February 28 is a Saturday and March 1 is a Sunday)
June 1997	March 31, 1998

b. Within nine months after death for estates of decedents dying during the period beginning July 1, 1981, and ending June 30, 1984.

86.2(7) *Election to file—before termination of prior estate.* The tax due on a future property interest may be paid, at the taxpayer’s election, on the present value of the future interest as follows:

a. *On or before the last day of the ninth month after the decedent’s death (or within one year after the death of the decedent for estates of decedents dying prior to July 1, 1981).* Compute the tax by applying the life estate, annuity, or present value tables to the value of the property at the date of the decedent’s death. If age or time is a determining factor in computing the present value of the future interest, it is the age or time at the date of the decedent’s death that must be used.

b. *After the last day of the ninth month following the decedent’s death (one year after death for estates of decedents dying prior to July 1, 1981) but prior to the termination of the prior estate.* Compute the tax by applying the life estate, annuity, or present value tables to the value of the property at the date the tax is paid. If age or time is a determining factor in computing the present value of the future interest, it is the age or time at the date the tax is paid that must be used. *In re Estate of Wickham*, 241 Iowa 98, 40 N.W.2d 469 (1950); *In re Estate of Millard*, 251 Iowa 1282, 105 N.W.2d 95 (1960). *In re Estate of Dwight E. Clapp*, Clay County District Court, Probate No. 7251 (1980).